



# NEWS RELEASE

15-025

Date: Friday, February 27, 2015

District: 8 - San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COUNTY SUPERVISORS AND MULTIPLE AGENCIES UNITE TO PREPARE MOTORISTS FOR SNOW EVENT IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

**SAN BERNARDINO** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 8 partnered with San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and various agencies today to host a press conference and present information to provide safety tips and prepare motorists for travel to the mountains during snow events.

San Bernardino County Chair James Ramos stated, "Big Bear Valley is a hot spot for recreational activities. For visitors to enjoy the beauty of the San Bernardino Mountains, we ask them to please come prepared for the changing weather conditions." He continued, "Not doing so results in unnecessary burdens to first responders and traffic delays for travelers going up to Big Bear Valley."

"This is a good example of local and state agencies working together. We very much appreciate the visitors who come to play in the snow and ski in Wrightwood. But sadly, some folks are trashing the community, parking illegally, trespassing on private property, littering and even going to the bathroom on residents' property. So we will be beefing up enforcement actions. Visitors are welcome, but those who trash our community are not," commented San Bernardino County Vice-Chair Robert Lovingood.

San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford said, "We welcome visitors to enjoy the snow in our wonderful mountain communities, but they shouldn't spoil their visit by not being prepared. Bring and use chains; carry extra clothes, food and water; and please respect our forest and those who call it home by picking up your trash and not trespassing on private property."

The California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino County Sheriff, San Bernardino County Fire, United State Forest Service (USFS), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire), and the San Bernardino Public Works Department joined Caltrans District Director Basem Muallem to encourage safe driving on mountain highways during snow events.

Here are some additional helpful tips offered by the officials:

- **Know before you go!** Check weather conditions and road closures <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>.
- Make sure your car is in good running condition – have a full tank of gas before you go up the hill, check tire pressure, windshield wipers, and vehicle fluids.
- Have a charged cell phone for emergency use.
- Be advised that unforeseen weather can cause traffic delays and road closures without notice – have patience, be courteous, reduce your speed, and leave space between vehicles.
- Do not conduct snow play in or next to roadways, turnouts, on private property, or undesignated areas. **Bring trash bags to stash your trash – never leave it behind!**
- Do not block traffic to install chains or play in the snow.
- **BRING CHAINS!** Chains will be required to travel on mountain roads during snow events. Keep chains in your vehicle at all times when you travel to the mountains during winter months – even when chain control is not active. Only chain up your vehicle in designated chain control areas and use permitted chain installers.

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Caltrans urges motorists to pay close attention to these helpful tips to ensure the safety of the traveling public, along with road workers and emergency personnel. Give snow plows plenty of room to work to keep the roads clear for use.

The mountains can be a great place to spend time during winter months for family fun and recreation. Motorists should prepare for unforeseen events and changes in weather that can cause immediate road closures or extended periods in your vehicle on the highway. Plan your trip ahead of time, know your destination, and pick up maps at Ranger Stations for designated snow play areas.

Winter weekends bring heavy mountain traffic – have patience and follow all traffic laws. Following these simple tips can make the difference between life and death in some situations – and they will definitely add to making your trip to the mountains a pleasant one!

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